Government of
Saskatchewan

Annual Report
1999 – 2000

Saskatchewan Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs

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Letters of Transmittal

Her Honour the Honourable Dr. Lynda M. Haverstock
Lieutenant Governor
Province of Saskatchewan
Government House
Regina, Saskatchewan

Your Honour:

It is our honour to submit to you the Annual Report of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2000.

The work of the department during the past year has contributed to the rich quality of life for the people of Saskatchewan and has helped support the goals of the Government of Saskatchewan.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Hillson
Minister of Intergovernmental and
Aboriginal Affairs and
Provincial Secretary

Buckley Belanger
Associate Minister of
Intergovernmental and
Aboriginal Affairs

To the Honourable Jack Hillson
Minister of Intergovernmental and
Aboriginal Affairs and Provincial Secretary

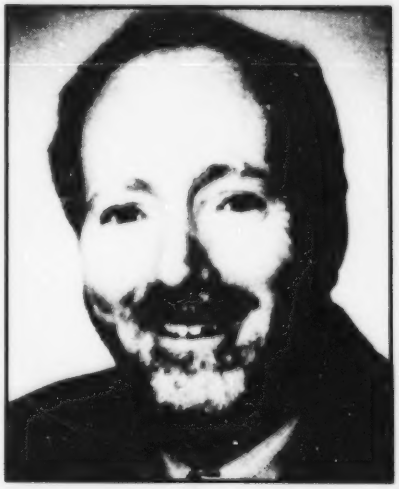
To the Honourable Buckley Belanger
Associate Minister of Intergovernmental and
Aboriginal Affairs

Dear Ministers:

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2000.

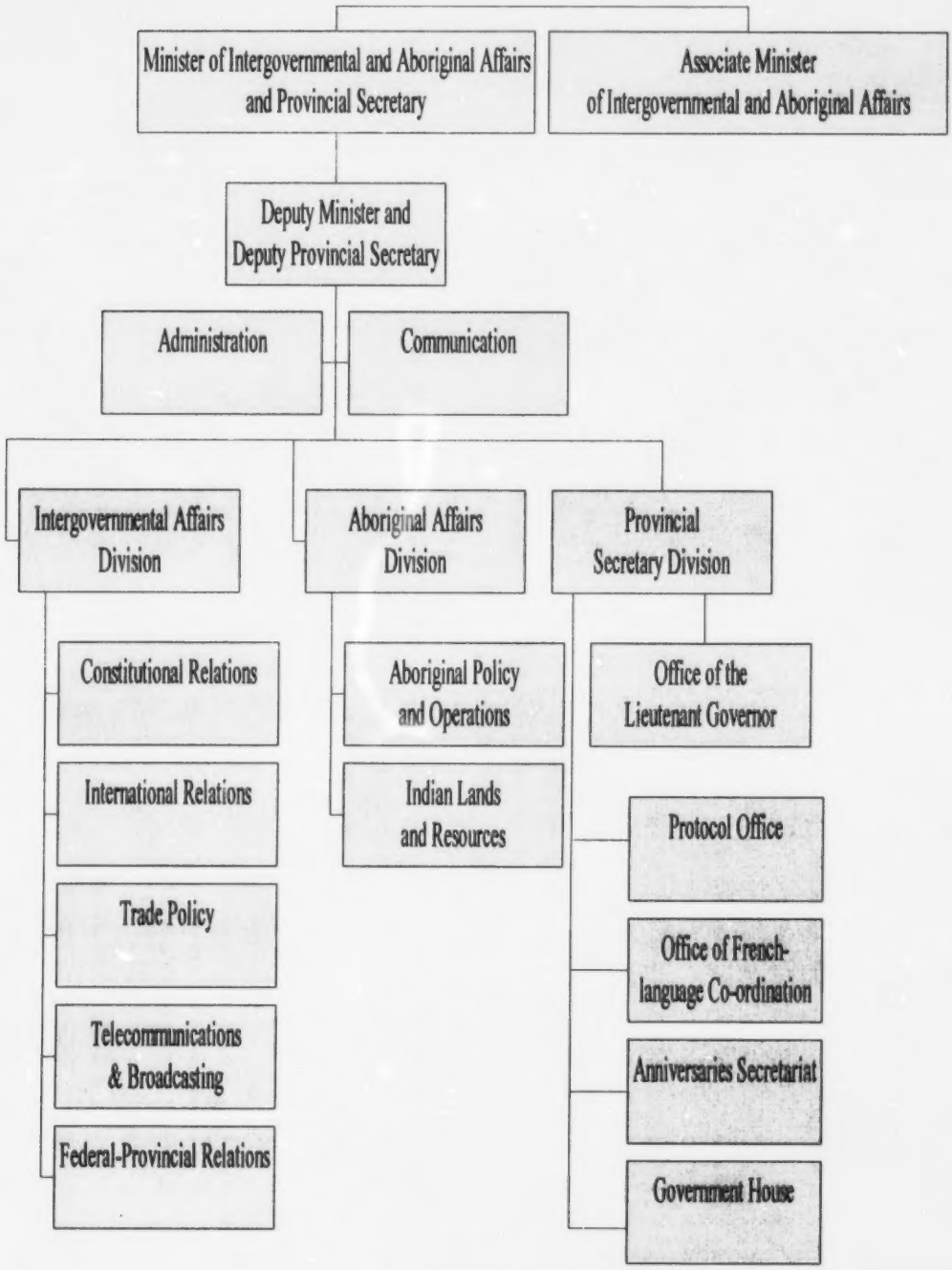
The staff at Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs have undertaken their work this year with professionalism, diligence and innovation. We are proud of the work of the department and look forward to working together to meet our future challenges.

Respectfully submitted,



W. Brent Cotter
Deputy Minister
Intergovernmental and
Aboriginal Affairs and
Deputy Provincial Secretary

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW



Message from the Deputy Minister

Work in Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs in fiscal 1999-2000 saw progression of initiatives in many areas, evolution of challenges and opportunities in others, and introduction of innovative approaches and solutions throughout the department.

The trade and international portfolio addressed a very full slate of trade liberalization negotiations globally, regionally, bilaterally, and domestically. The area also saw the rise of several trade disputes that directly affect Saskatchewan's own measures and economic interests. As well, the year saw the intensification of trade protectionism, especially in agriculture, in the United States. Work continues to advance Saskatchewan's interests in these national, regional and international trade relationships.

The intergovernmental area made some significant progress on the national scene related to children and youth initiatives. These include participating in a national dialogue around a National Children's Agenda as well as our work in effectively advancing child poverty as a national priority.

Saskatchewan also successfully concluded a new Canada-Saskatchewan General Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages.

Within Saskatchewan, a major focus for the department was its work with the province's Aboriginal community. Resolving outstanding land matters is a priority for the Province of Saskatchewan and substantive progress was achieved in fiscal 1999-2000. A highlight was the successful negotiation of a federal-provincial agreement on tax loss compensation for Specific Claims settlements involving $4.1 million.

Other key accomplishments included several landmark partnerships signed under the Aboriginal Employment Development Program and the department's work with off-reserve First Nations and Metis people regarding a proposed *Framework for Co-operation.*

The Provincial Secretary Division shared in the year's progress and challenges. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor bid farewell to former Lieutenant Governor J.E.N. Wiebe and Mrs. Wiebe, and installed Lieutenant Governor Lynda Haverstock into office.

The Protocol Office had an extremely busy year managing a busy schedule of official visits, many official and ceremonial functions, and the prestigious honours and awards program.

Highlights of the year for Government House included renovations so all individuals can access the second floor and basement facilities and the commissioning of a study on a future vision for the property.

The Office of French-language Co-ordination made progress in its liaison with the Fransaskois community based on the finalized Canada-Saskatchewan General Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages.

The Anniversaries Secretariat managed a very successful Millennium celebration for Saskatchewan residents and laid the groundwork for planning the province's Centennial celebration in 2005.

Another highlight of the year was the development, with input from all department staff, of IAA's first Strategic Plan.

The challenges within IAA are ever evolving. I am proud to acknowledge the innovation and dedication of my staff in meeting the challenges and in serving the people of Saskatchewan.

W. Brent Cotter
Deputy Minister
Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs
and Deputy Provincial Secretary

Department Strategic Direction

Our Department Vision

IAA is a PROFESSIONAL organization.

Employees have professional integrity and complementary skills and knowledge in the department's fields of endeavour.

IAA is a DYNAMIC and PROACTIVE organization.

Our department is a leader in the creation and support of initiatives within and between governments, communities and organizations. The department influences and effects positive outcomes by anticipating and embracing change, by addressing employee and community needs and by building strong and effective relationships.

IAA leads by example. Creative and collaborative problem solving and innovation are encouraged. The department recognizes the importance of effective communication.

IAA is a RESPECTFUL organization.

IAA recognizes and respects the cultural diversity of the communities with which it works. The department acknowledges the contribution of all employees. It employs a representative workforce.

IAA is a RESPONSIBLE organization.

IAA is accountable to the public for achieving its goals and objectives and for effectively managing its resources.

Our Guiding Principles

IAA believes in:

INTEGRITY. We conduct our activities and approach our relationships with honesty, fairness and trustworthiness.

RESPECT. We are supportive and sensitive to the needs of others. Our interactions are based on fairness, equity and openness.

PROFESSIONALISM. We strive for excellence and have pride in our work, take a non-partisan approach and are courteous and respectful toward all people.

OPEN COMMUNICATION. We communicate in an open, consultative and responsible manner.

TEAMWORK AND CO-OPERATION. We promote teamwork and co-operation.

CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION. We promote a learning culture. We encourage new ideas and fresh approaches. We value risk-taking to achieve innovation.

HEALTHY WORKING ENVIRONMENT. We recognize the need to balance work and family life and the importance of acknowledging the contributions of all employees. IAA is accountable to the public for achieving its goals and objectives and for effectively managing its resources.

Mandates

Department Mandate

Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs will:

- promote Saskatchewan's interests through the management of the province's relations with other governments, in Canada and abroad;
- work with Aboriginal people in the province and their organizations to develop and implement policies and programs which advance our common interests; and
- provide services related to protocol, honours, ceremonial and celebratory special events, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, and the Office of French-language Co-ordination.

Intergovernmental Affairs Division

Trade and International Relations

Trade and International Relations will:

- initiate and co-ordinate the development and implementation of provincial policies on market access for exports from, and imports into, Saskatchewan with respect to goods, services, investment and labour;
- negotiate the acceptance of those policies by, in the case of international trade, the federal government and, in the case of internal trade, both the federal and other provincial and territorial governments in Canada;
- participate in the resolution of trade disputes involving Saskatchewan measures;
- assist the provincial government, and its departments and agencies, in achieving their economic, social and constitutional objectives through the instrument of trade policy; and, more generally,
- initiate and co-ordinate the development and implementation of policies and programs of the Government of Saskatchewan in its relations with the governments and peoples of foreign jurisdictions, and with the governing bodies of international organizations and their institutions.

Intergovernmental Relations

Intergovernmental Relations will:

- use available instruments to advance Saskatchewan's economic, social and constitutional objectives and interests intergovernmentally; and
- continue to assess developments within the federation to ensure that Saskatchewan's objectives and interests are strategically situated within the evolving policy and intergovernmental environment.

Aboriginal Affairs Division

The Aboriginal Affairs Division will:

- work with Saskatchewan's Aboriginal people and their organizations to develop and implement policies and programs that advance our common interests;

- increase the participation of Aboriginal people in the social, cultural, and economic life of the province through:
  - respect for Aboriginal cultures and identities as the foundation for policy development and our constructive relationships with Aboriginal communities and organizations;
  - facilitation of, in partnership with Aboriginal organizations, communities and the federal government, functional and accountable First Nations and Métis governance structures; and
  - a focus on practical matters in a strategic and co-ordinated approach that is advanced across government, between governments and through our relations with Aboriginal organizations.

Provincial Secretary Division

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor will:

- support the Lieutenant Governor in carrying out her constitutional responsibilities within our constitutional monarchy. These responsibilities include providing Royal Assent, signing Orders-in-Council, and constitutional matters that enable the government to function;
- support the Lieutenant Governor in her goal to be accessible to the people of Saskatchewan, through visits or by attending events and functions; and
- encourage citizen participation in the Saskatchewan Order of Merit and the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

Protocol Office

The Protocol Office will:

- plan, organize and implement visits of foreign diplomats, heads of state and government, ministers and delegations;
- organize ceremonial occasions and other special events; administer the provincial honours and awards program; formulate and implement policy on provincial symbols; and
- provide consulting services to government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the general public.

Government House Heritage Property

Government House Heritage Property will:

- operate as a premier heritage and tourism attraction featuring cultural and educational programming to all markets;
- operate a hospitality facility for events of government and certain non-profit organizations; and
- provide suitable facilities for the offices and functions of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan.

Office of French-language Co-ordination

The Office of French-language Co-ordination will:

- form productive partnerships with Saskatchewan's Francophone community, relevant government departments and agencies, other provinces and territories and the federal government; and
- enhance the delivery of French-language services in Saskatchewan, in sectors important to Saskatchewan's Francophone community.

Anniversaries Secretariat

The Anniversaries Secretariat will:

- co-ordinate the implementation of Millennium and Centennial activities and projects;
- consult with, and receive direction from, the Citizens' Advisory Council on Anniversaries; and
- make recommendations to government regarding celebration of the Millennium, communities celebrating their centennials

from now through 2005 and celebration of Saskatchewan's Centennial in 2005.

The Citizens' Advisory Council will provide vision, direction and leadership for Saskatchewan's celebrations of the Millennium, community centennials and the Provincial Centennial in 2005.

Department Goals

I. The aspirations of Saskatchewan's Aboriginal people are understood and realized in a manner that is fair and equitable.

II. Canada's constitutionally recognized communities and people are acknowledged, respected and supported within our province and federation.

III. Saskatchewan's social, economic and constitutional interests are advanced, and its values are recognized and reflected, within a strong, united Canadian federation and within the international community.

IV. Saskatchewan's identity, heritage and the achievements of our people are honoured, promoted and celebrated.

V. A high quality of working life and an adequately resourced, healthy, learning organization are the foundations on which excellent service is provided by our representative professional workforce.

Challenges and Plans for 2000-2001

Intergovernmental Affairs Division

Trade and International Relations

The next fiscal year will see a continuation of several negotiations and an enhancement of others. WTO negotiations in services, and possibly other sectors, are scheduled to begin. Free Trade Agreement Area (FTAA) negotiations are expected to gain momentum. Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) negotiations on the 'built-in' agenda continue, with recommendations being developed for a broader and deeper application of the AIT in future.

At the same time, it is important for the Province to maintain intergovernmental momentum with its new cross-border relationships with several northern and mid-western states.

As well, there is a need for a provincial strategy to guide future international initiatives.

To address these challenges, Trade and International Relations plans to:

- articulate a made-in-Saskatchewan set of objectives for the WTO services negotiations, and successfully lobby for its inclusion in the federal negotiating position;
- articulate Saskatchewan's objectives for the FTAA negotiations;
- complete the outstanding negotiating agenda in the AIT, and manage the process of deciding the future agenda of the AIT, in ways that meet provincial objectives;
- successfully defend and advance Saskatchewan's interests in any trade disputes that affect its measures and/or interests;
- successfully integrate trade policy considerations into provincial development strategies (economic, social, environmental, Aboriginal), and provide effective advice and support to appropriate departments or agencies;
- enhance access to, and the transparency of, trade policy-making in the province to ensure a balanced approach; and
- develop a strategic policy and program framework to guide the design and implementation of the province's international relations.

Intergovernmental Relations

The key challenge in fiscal 2000-2001 will be to modernize federal-provincial arrangements to remain current and relevant given the fast pace of economic and technological change.

To address these challenges, Intergovernmental Relations plans to:

- focus on new federal-provincial partnership approaches in the area of social policy, as contemplated by the Social Union Framework Agreement signed in February 1999. Particular emphasis needs to be placed on reversing the negative effects of previous federal fiscal policies and securing fuller federal financial participation in health care, initiatives for children, and other social programs;
- review federal-provincial arrangements in the area of economic development and learning to ensure they are as supportive as possible of Saskatchewan's objectives; and
- continue to aggressively advance to the federal government the interests of Saskatchewan agricultural producers and, more generally, rural Saskatchewan.

Aboriginal Affairs Division

Key initiatives for Aboriginal Affairs include ongoing work to advance Aboriginal self government negotiations and the participation of Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan's social, cultural and economic life, and to manage and resolve First Nations land matters.

To address these challenges, the division plans to:

- complete all provincial actions required for reserve creation on an additional 90,000 acres by March 31, 2001;
- transfer an additional 70,000 acres to reserve status by March 31, 2001;
- ensure an additional four to five Entitlement First Nations achieve Shortfall Acres by March 31, 2001;
- increase the number of Aboriginal persons employed in Saskatchewan worksites by signing eight new partnership agreements under the Aboriginal Employment Development Program (AEDP);
- finalize the Terms of Reference and Workplan for negotiating a *Framework for Governance* of Treaty First Nations at the Governance Table with the FSIN and Canada and seek the necessary mandate from Cabinet to sign the document;
- continue to participate in negotiation of a Comprehensive Agreement-in-Principle (CAIP) between the Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC) and Canada and a companion Tripartite Agreement-in-Principle (TAIP) involving Saskatchewan, MLTC and Canada;
- use the 2000-2001 workplans of the Metis Bilateral Process Agreement and the Metis Tripartite Agreement as the vehicle for practical action under these agreements;
- continue to co-ordinate and implement the Framework for Co-operation with Metis and off-reserve First Nations peoples; and
- further develop the Aboriginal Peoples' Economic Development Strategy in partnership with Saskatchewan Economic and Co-operative Development, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan and the federal government.

Provincial Secretary Division

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

The Office faces three primary challenges during the next year. They are to increase the Lieutenant Governor's scope of contacts within specific areas of the province; to assist the Lieutenant Governor in encouraging citizens to nominate individuals for the Saskatchewan Order of Merit and the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal; and to increase networking with provincial and federal counterparts to promote the sharing of expertise and the support of the Crown in Canada.

To address these challenges, the Office plans to:

- seek out opportunities to host events in communities that have not received a visit from the Lieutenant Governor in many years, if ever;
- issue a series of special news releases relating to the Saskatchewan Honours and Awards Program;
- publish a quarterly newsletter for the public and for other government departments and offices; and
- enhance the congratulatory greeting program to allow citizens wider access.

Protocol Office

The visits and events aspect of Protocol is under continuous review. Saskatchewan receives fewer than its fair share of visits of foreign heads of state and government; these can be significant because they draw international attention to our province and

often have direct results for trade, investment and cultural relations with other nations.

The pattern of successful recognition programs and events is expected to continue. The primary vehicles for recognition are the two provincial honours, the Saskatchewan Order of Merit and the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

Another area that will attract increasing attention is that related to anniversaries. As the provincial Centennial in 2005 draws closer, and as the five-year lead-up period begins, the Protocol Office will endeavour to arrange major ceremonial visits. The first visit of Governor General Adrienne Clarkson was planned for the spring of 2000.

To address these challenges, the Office plans to:

- prepare international visit guidelines in conjunction with the International Relations Branch for consideration by the department and agencies, and integration into an international relations strategy;
- attempt to broaden the base of nominations to Saskatchewan's honours and awards by targeting the North, Aboriginal people, and certain under-represented sectors such as business;
- attempt to re-activate the Saskatchewan Distinguished Service Award for non-residents of the province after a lull of a year;
- study the feasibility of specialized awards in other areas;
- contact the federal government and Buckingham Palace with a view to arranging visits from members of the Royal Family during the lead-up period to Saskatchewan's Centennial and in the Centennial year, in 2005.

Government House Heritage Property

Fiscal 2000-2001 will present a number of challenges. The first is to successfully communicate that Government House is one of Saskatchewan's premier facilities for heritage, tourism, education and official use.

A higher profile for the facility brings its own challenges with anticipated increases for tours and education programming. Increased visitation, official usage and non-profit programming at Government House may cause scheduling concerns.

To address these challenges, Government House plans to:

- develop a marketing plan to address this significant heritage site;
- hire a community relations co-ordinator to work closely with volunteer groups, especially the Government House Historical Society, and with the management of Government House to develop and implement a marketing strategy;
- release a consultant's report on the future of Government House and consult with various stakeholders on the report's recommendations;
- propose a five-year development plan from 2001 and culminating in the provincial Centennial year, 2005;
- revamp interpretive services and programming in anticipation of increased demand for tours and education.

Office of French-language Co-ordination

Fiscal 2000-2001 will bring a number of challenges provincially and nationally to the Office of French-language Co-ordination (OFLC). Health care and early childhood development will become the new focus for the lobbying efforts of Francophone and Acadian communities at the national level. In Saskatchewan, the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise (ACF), now in its second year, will continue to widen the scope of its activities. Bolstered by the

arrival of the new Director, the Office of French-language Co-ordination will become more proactive and more successful in assisting the provincial government to support the projects of the Fransaskois community which contribute to Saskatchewan's social development and economic growth.

To address these challenges, OFLC plans to:

- create a joint provincial government Francophone community French-language services liaison committee which will serve as a forum to discuss practical solutions to support the Francophone community's development and growth;
- collaborate with provincial government departments and agencies to tap into the synergy surrounding the growth of the Fransaskois community; and
- explore new opportunities for translation projects, in consultation with the Francophone community, with provincial government departments and agencies.

Anniversaries Secretariat

Planning for the province's Centennial in 2005 and for supporting the many community centennials occurring through 2005 will gain momentum during fiscal 2000-2001.

To address these challenges, the Anniversaries Secretariat plans to:

- complete the collection of ideas on how to celebrate our Centennial;
- form a detailed celebration action plan;
- provide support to communities planning their own centennial celebrations;
- implement the initial phases of appropriate Centennial program initiatives; and
- develop a visual identity program for the celebration.

Goal I: The aspirations of Saskatchewan's Aboriginal people are understood and realized in a manner that is fair and equitable.

Aboriginal Affairs Division

The division has a number of initiatives to increase participation of Aboriginal people in the social, cultural and economic life of the province.

Aboriginal Peoples' Economic Development Strategy

Aboriginal Affairs initiated work on an Aboriginal Peoples' Economic Development Strategy to work toward a representative provincial workforce. The work is being done in partnership with Saskatchewan Economic and Co-operative Development, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan (MNS), 18 provincial departments and Crown corporations, and the federal government.

A representative workforce will be achieved when Aboriginal people are represented at all levels of the workforce in approximately the same proportion – about 13% – as they are represented in the provincial population.

In 1997, Statistics Canada projected that, by 2001, one in four new labour force entrants in Saskatchewan would be Aboriginal. There were 66,000 Aboriginal people of working age in 1997, and only 52% participated in the provincial labour force compared with 75% for non-Aboriginal people. Further, the unemployment rate for Aboriginal people was 26% – more than five times higher than for the non-Aboriginal population, at 5%. Aboriginal people continued to face a significant employment gap despite improvements in their levels of education and training.

Trade Policy and Development Issues

The division also initiated exploratory work on trade policy and development issues to identify potential competitive trade advantages for Saskatchewan by working with Aboriginal communities.

Related opportunities will be examined as part of developmental work for the Aboriginal People's Economic Development Strategy. This work will involve reviewing, with the department's Trade Policy Branch and the other participating departments and agencies in the Canada-Saskatchewan International Business Development Plan, both provincial and federal market access and development policies and practices as they affect Aboriginal people.

Framework for Co-operation

In 1999-2000, the department arranged eight community meetings in urban and northern Saskatchewan communities to facilitate discussion of a proposed Framework for working with Metis and off-reserve First Nations people. The meetings were held in Regina, Saskatoon, North Battleford, Prince Albert, La Ronge, Ile-a-la-Crosse, and Yorkton. The Framework proposes integrated action by 10 lead departments to address education, skills training and university preparation, representative participation in the provincial economy, and individual and community well-being.

Grants to First Nation and Métis Organizations

Grants are provided on a case-by-case basis to enable Aboriginal organizations to undertake special projects and policy development activities of benefit to their respective memberships. Aboriginal Affairs administers the funding, with delivery by First Nations and Métis organizations.

Aboriginal Women's Organizations

The division provides funding to Women of the Dawn and the Women and Wellness Conference in support of First Nations women's social and healing initiatives. Funding was also provided to the Aboriginal Women's Council of Saskatchewan Inc. to offset costs related to policy development and implementation of accountable administrative structures for the many programs delivered across the Province. The Aboriginal Women's Council of Saskatchewan continues to address wellness, violence, unity and heritage of Aboriginal women throughout Saskatchewan.

Aboriginal Community Management Authorities Program

Through the Aboriginal Community Management Authorities Program, Aboriginal Affairs promotes Aboriginal community development by enabling Indian and Métis people to develop their own service delivery systems in urban settings. This work helps to develop models for community-based and managed approaches for providing integrated services. These Aboriginal service institutions deliver culturally appropriate, rationalized and accountable services. Delivery systems can be First Nation-specific, Métis-specific, or a co-operative arrangement where First Nation and Métis organizations form a joint partnership.

In 1999-2000 the Aboriginal Community Management Authorities Program funded four projects including:

- the Regina Treaty/Status Indian Services Inc., Saskatoon Tribal Council Urban First Nations Inc. and the Prince Albert Grand Council Urban Authority expansion and implementation of urban First Nation service delivery systems in their respective communities; and
- the Yorkton Tribal Council's community consultation and expansion of its service delivery system to urban First Nations people residing in Yorkton.

Co-ordination of Intergovernmental Initiatives

Aboriginal Affairs also facilitates, promotes and co-ordinates Aboriginal initiatives within the Government of Saskatchewan and with other governments and Aboriginal organizations.

Highlights:

- Participated on the Aboriginal Subcommittee of the Saskatchewan Council of Senior Federal Officials to co-ordinate policies and directions between the federal and provincial governments and provide advice on program delivery by the federal government.
- Co-ordinated implementation of the strategy arising from community discussions on the *Framework for Co-operation* to address the needs of Metis and off-reserve First Nations people.
- Provided advice to departments and Crown corporations with respect to development of policy, programs and services.
- Facilitated interaction between provincial departments and Crown corporations with Aboriginal organizations to ensure appropriate and

effective consultations in the development of new policy, programs and services.

- Worked in co-operation with the department's Intergovernmental Relations branch and the departments of Environment and Resource Management and Energy and Mines to renegotiate arrangements with Canada on the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range including compensation, long-term management and land use planning, and regional economic development in the north west.

Workforce Initiatives

Another objective of Aboriginal Affairs is to engage Aboriginal people in the Saskatchewan workforce in a manner that represents the changing provincial demographics.

Highlights:

- Improved employment and economic development opportunities by working with employers through the Aboriginal Employment Development Program (AEDP).
- Co-ordinated post-secondary training institutions, provincial and federal government departments to address training needs in the Aboriginal community.
- Initiated work with various unions in Saskatchewan to determine their role in enhancing Aboriginal employment.
- Supported the Aboriginal Government Employees Network (AGEN).

Aboriginal Employment Development Program

The Aboriginal Employment Development Program (AEDP) was established in 1992 to facilitate employment opportunities for Aboriginal people across the public and private sectors. The program promotes and facilitates partnerships between Aboriginal people, organizations and public and private sector employers.

These partnerships help ensure that Aboriginal people get the training they need to compete for, and obtain, jobs in Saskatchewan workplaces. Partnerships emphasize Aboriginal employability and employer commitment, remove barriers to employment and retention, and identify and develop business opportunities.

Representatives from Aboriginal Affairs continue to meet with private and public sector employers to promote the goal of a representative workforce in Saskatchewan.

Elements of the representative workforce strategy include:

- linking employers with the Aboriginal labour force;
- relating training for Aboriginal people to real job opportunities;
- linking First Nations and Metis education institutions with employers;
- fostering a greater role for Aboriginal communities in employment;
- overcoming employment barriers based on racial and cultural factors; and
- facilitating investments by the private sector.

We have made tremendous strides. We have a better grasp on workforce issues, and the challenges facing Aboriginal people. There is no turning back. This is the future.

- Minister Jack Hillson
Intergovernmental and
Aboriginal Affairs

Aboriginal Affairs funded 33 projects under the Aboriginal Employment Development Program during the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

Following are key initiatives:

- Cost sharing the first year of an Aboriginal Employment Co-ordinator position to assist in the implementation of employment strategies with partnering organizations. As of March 31, 2000, partnering organizations employed nine co-ordinators. The average rate of hiring was more than 11% in those workplaces that employed a co-ordinator for the full year in 1999/2000.

- In an effort to increase the number of Aboriginal people taking training linked to partnership employer jobs, the Provincial Representative Workforce Council (PRWC) was struck to develop strategies and address barriers to Aboriginal training and employment. Co-chaired between Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs and Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training, and with representation from Saskatchewan's Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal post-secondary training institutions, partnership employers, organized labour and the provincial and federal governments, the PRWC will develop strategies in the next year.

- The research project, *Determining Health Labour Force Needs*, was completed. Through this labour force survey, funded through Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training, Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations and Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, employment and training needs in the health sector were identified on a provincial scale. This information will lead to a broader range of opportunities for the Aboriginal workforce to focus their training efforts.

- Presentations and workshops about the AEDP were made to Saskatchewan employers and the Aboriginal community throughout the year. These presentations informed employers about the need and benefits of addressing Aboriginal employment and informed the Aboriginal community of the employment opportunities in partnering organizations.

- Aboriginal cultural awareness education was provided to partnering organizations to advance the creation of "fair workplaces" which are ready to hire and retain Aboriginal employees.

Accomplishments

- ✓ Well over 700 Aboriginal people have competed successfully for jobs; 240 Aboriginal persons have received work-based training and more than 1,100 senior managers, supervisors and employees have received Aboriginal cultural awareness education in partnering organizations.
- ✓ By March 31, 2000, 23 partnership agreements were signed, encompassing 25 employers.
- ✓ A Partnership agreement with the Touchwood Agency Tribal Council marked the first formal agreement with a First Nations organization.
- ✓ Partnerships with both of Saskatchewan's universities marked the first educational institutions to partner under the AEDP.
- ✓ An additional three health districts signed in 1999/2000 as well as two Saskatchewan government departments and the Saskatchewan Labour Force Development board. These agreements commit the parties to develop strategies that will open the doors for qualified Aboriginal candidates to compete for job openings.

Goal II: Canada's constitutionally recognized communities and people are acknowledged, respected and supported within our province and federation.

Aboriginal Affairs Division

In support of this goal, the division is responsible for ensuring First Nations land matters are facilitated, managed and resolved in an effective, timely and harmonious manner in accordance with the Province's obligations under Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Settlement Agreements signed with the federal government and First Nations.

Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements

In total, 28 Entitlement First Nations will receive $516 million over 12 years from Canada and Saskatchewan to purchase up to 1.95 million acres of land to add to their reserves.

The first 25 Entitlement First Nations, as outlined in the Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement, will receive approximately $440 million over 12 years to purchase up to 1,645,962 acres of deeded and Crown land in Saskatchewan. Funding is cost-shared with the federal government.

Three additional settlements were completed, bringing the total to 28 Entitlement First Nations. The first is the separate but parallel Nekaneet Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement Agreement that involves approximately $8 million to purchase up to 27,327 acres.

The Cowessess First Nation signed a Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement Agreement on March 14, 1996. The Cowessess Agreement will provide $46.6 million for the purchase of up to 189,367 acres of land.

On March 29, 1996, the Carry the Kettle First Nation signed a TLE Settlement Agreement with Saskatchewan and Canada. The Carry the Kettle First Nation Agreement will provide $21 million for the purchase of up to 86,491 acres of land.

These agreements see First Nations receive land promised them by the federal government under Treaties. Saskatchewan has a legal obligation to the federal government to assist in the settlement of outstanding treaty land entitlements.

Each Entitlement First Nation must purchase and transfer to reserve status a minimum amount of land called shortfall acres. After its shortfall acreage amount attains reserve status, an Entitlement First Nation can use any remaining money for Band development (including economic development) purposes. The total shortfall for the 28 Entitlement First Nations is 514,584 acres.

The amount of money that Entitlement First Nations can spend to purchase land and minerals, up to the shortfall, is capped.

The 1.95 million acres involved under these Agreements represent a portion of land equal to about twice the size of the Prince Albert National Park.

Under the Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement, Saskatchewan has the following legal obligations to the federal government:

- to provide a 30% share of the annual payments to the Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Fund for the use and benefit of Entitlement Bands;
- to meet additional obligations to the Government of Canada based on savings from northern community transfers; and
- to provide the provincial share of the Rural Municipal and School Division Tax Loss Compensation Funds to a maximum government payment of $32 million for each fund.

Land Acquisition

Entitlement First Nations can purchase deeded (i.e. private) or Crown land and underlying minerals on a "willing-seller, willing-buyer" basis for future transfer to reserve status.

Treaty Land Entitlement monies received by a First Nation are held in a trust fund controlled by the Band which may only be used to purchase land for entitlement until each Band's shortfall acreage amount has attained reserve status.

The Framework Agreement defines the terms and conditions for Crown land and mineral acquisition and also addresses issues such as water, roads, third party interests, urban reserves, and procedures for reserve creation.

The Government of Saskatchewan works closely with First Nations in the provincial Crown land acquisition phase of the Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements.

Co-ordination & Implementation

The Aboriginal Affairs Division co-ordinated provincial implementation of the Framework and Settlement Agreements on Treaty Land Entitlement, administered provincial funding obligations under the Agreements, and facilitated provincial compliance with the Agreements during fiscal 1999-2000. In addition, it:

- co-ordinated the review of Crown land purchase requests and deeded land purchases to identify provincial and known third party interests;
- chaired the Provincial Treaty Land Entitlement Review Committee, composed of 12 departments and Crown corporations;
- chaired the Core Treaty Land Entitlement Review Committee, composed of land administering departments (including Agriculture and Food, Environment and Resource Management, Energy and Mines, and Municipal Affairs, Culture and Housing); and
- served as a single "window" into the Saskatchewan government for Treaty Land Entitlement, and represented the Province on the Land Settlement Board.

Under the Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements, 152 selections totalling 68,361 acres were transferred to reserve status in 1999-2000. Fiscal year totals include:

- six selections totalling 1,616 acres for the Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation;
- two selections totalling 3,123 acres for the Carry The Kettle First Nation;
- 17 selections totalling 6,603 acres for the Cowessess First Nation;
- one selection totalling 106 acres for the English River First Nation;
- two selections totalling 114 acres for the Flying Dust First Nation;
- three selections totalling 1,101 acres for the Keeseekoose First Nation;
- 15 selections totalling 9,446 acres for the Little Pine First Nation;
- 25 selections totalling 13,957 acres for the Moosomin First Nation;
- one selection totalling 318 acres for the Muskeg Lake First Nation;
- three selections totalling 455 acres for the Muskowekwan First Nation;
- six selections totalling 3,447 acres for the Nekaneet First Nation;
- 15 selections totalling 5,015 acres for the Ochapowace First Nation;
- three selections totalling 1,105 acres for the Okanese First Nation;
- seven selections totalling 2,016 acres for the One Arrow First Nation;
- one selection totalling 2 acres for the Pelican Lake First Nation;

- three selections totalling 306 acres for the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation;
- 28 selections totalling 9,819 acres for the Piapot First Nation;
- four selections totalling 1,662 acres for the Poundmaker First Nation;
- three selections totalling 1,883 acres for the Red Pheasant First Nation;
- four selections totalling 4,254 acres for the Saulteaux First Nation;
- two selections totalling 1,541 acres for the Witchekan Lake First Nation; and
- one selection totalling 482 acres for the Yellow Quill First Nation.

Other highlights:

- The division assisted in the successful negotiation of a Treaty Land Entitlement settlement for the Kawacatoose First Nation. Kawacatoose, Canada and the Province initialed a draft settlement agreement on January 18, 2000.
- Two First Nations achieved their Shortfall Acres: Okanese and Saulteaux.
- The Province made its eighth payment under the Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement and its fifth payment under the Amended Cost-Sharing Agreement.

During the fiscal year, the division co-ordinated the reviews of approximately 528,126 acres of Crown land, private land and underlying Crown minerals. As well, 453,752 acres were made available for sale or transfer as of March 31, 2000, as follows:

- 236,892 acres of Crown Land and underlying Crown minerals were made available for sale;
- 216,870 acres of Crown minerals underlying deeded land were made available for sale or transfer;
- the Province sold 8,358 acres of Crown land to Entitlement First Nations; and
- the Province passed 55 Orders-in-Council transferring an additional 49,815 acres of Crown minerals to the Federal Crown effective upon reserve creation.

Specific Claims

Canada has settled a number of wrongful surrender claims with First Nations. Although these specific claims are a matter between the federal government and First Nations, there are implications for the Province. The division co-ordinates reviews of provincial lands purchased by First Nations for the purpose of attaining reserve status. These reviews identify provincial and known third party interests. In this capacity the division works with First Nations, Canada and provincial agencies to identify and address provincial interests.

In addition, the division assisted in finalizing a federal/provincial agreement on tax loss compensation for Specific Claims settlements. The agreement was signed March 31, 2000. This agreement provides for a lump sum payment to be made to Saskatchewan in the amount of $4.1 million for 300,000 acres of land to attain reserve status in Saskatchewan in rural municipalities. It will assist in offsetting the loss of tax base experienced by rural municipalities, school divisions and conservation and development area authorities.

First Nations and Metis Governance Structures

Key actions undertaken to develop functional and accountable governance structures:

- Co-hosted, with the FSIN and Canada, a successful Accountability Conference in Saskatoon.

- Participated in Fiscal Relations Table discussions involving Saskatchewan, Canada, and First Nations to discuss issues of mutual concern, including functional and accountable aspects of governance.
- Developed, in co-operation with the FSIN and Canada, a draft Terms of Reference and a draft work plan for negotiating a *Framework for Governance* of Treaty First Nations as part of a "scoping out" phase at the Governance Table.
- Worked with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council and Canada toward a Comprehensive Agreement-in-Principle (CAIP) and Tri-partite Agreement-in-Principle (TAIP) for on-reserve self-government.
- Participated in discussions arising from the Exploratory Treaty Table (ETT), a bilateral forum between the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and Canada where provisions were made for an "intergovernmental forum" involving Saskatchewan as an observer.
- Facilitated and managed the Province's involvement with the Metis Bilateral Process Agreement and work plan involving the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan and the Province, and the Tripartite work plan involving the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan, Canada and the Province.
- Assisted with implementation of the Northern Development Strategy in the areas of interdepartmental and intergovernmental relations.

Common Table Processes with FSIN and Canada

In 1996, Saskatchewan became party to a Common Table Protocol Agreement with Canada and the FSIN to discuss fiscal and jurisdictional matters related to self-government. Fiscal and governance tables were established under the umbrella of the Common Table. Since 1997, the fiscal side of self-government has been subject to discussions at the Fiscal Relations Table. Since 1998, Saskatchewan has been involved in a "scoping out" phase at the Governance Table.

Treaties are clearly a bridge from the past to the future -- we must now forge ahead and envision a new reality, one that will ensure a prosperous, stable, and healthy environment for all people in Saskatchewan.

-The Honourable Judge
David M. Arnot
Treaty Commissioner for
Saskatchewan

Self-Government Negotiations at the MLTC Table

In 1996, Saskatchewan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that shifted the status of the Province from observer to negotiator at the self-government table with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC) and Canada. Saskatchewan provided grant funding to the MLTC to offset planning, community consultations, communications, liaison and co-ordination costs related to the MLTC/Provincial Memorandum of Understanding surrounding on-reserve self-government discussions.

Bilateral and Tripartite Processes with Métis Nation of Saskatchewan

The bilateral process between Saskatchewan and the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan (MNS) provides a forum to discuss issues of mutual concern, including policy and program matters.

The Tripartite process with the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan and Canada brings the federal government to the table to address Metis issues and to promote the building of governance capacity. The objective of the Province's participation is to facilitate economic development, recognize Métis culture, promote social equity, and foster capacity building in support of Métis community and institutional governance.

Provincial Secretary Division

Office of French-language Co-ordination

On the national level, there was a new interest in the needs of minority Francophone communities and renewed support for their continued development. A number of superior court decisions advocated a strengthening of language-related rights. Comprehensive independent studies called on governments to improve their services in this area.

The federal government increased its investment in official languages programs across the country and launched the Year of La Francophonie in Canada to celebrate the diversity of the nation's Francophone and Acadian communities.
Canada's Francophone and Acadian communities were in the international spotlight. Heads of state and governments from more than 50 countries sharing French as a common language met in Moncton, New Brunswick in September 1999 for the Sommet de la Francophonie.

Saskatchewan and the Fransaskois community were well represented at this event. OFLC offered a French-language web site on Saskatchewan. OFLC also helped select and fund three Saskatchewan high school students who served as pages to the delegations. As well, OFLC provided financial support and French-language promotional material on Saskatchewan to the Fransaskois community delegation at the Village de la Francophonie cultural festival.

In 1999-2000, the Office of French-language Co-ordination made significant progress in strengthening its relationship with both the federal government and the Francophone community.

Working with the Intergovernmental Affairs Division, the OFLC finalized a new Canada-Saskatchewan General Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages that will provide 50-50 cost-shared funding for the period 1999-2004 in support of the province's French-language initiatives (in areas other than education). This agreement represents a potential combined investment from the federal and provincial governments of $3.15 million over the five-year period.

The Government of Saskatchewan and the Fransaskois community were pleased with the action plan developed under the agreement, particularly the new focus on liaison and co-ordination. There was concern, however, about how the OFLC, with limited staff, could handle the implementation. The department responded by working with the Francophone community to lay the groundwork for hiring a director.

In 1999-2000, OFLC continued to facilitate communication between the Fransaskois community and the provincial government and to assist departments and agencies with their participation in national and international forums. OFLC responded to 382 translation requests totalling 310,977 words. In-house translators handled 80% of the requests and 47% of the translation volume.

Goal III: **Saskatchewan's social, economic, and constitutional interests are advanced and its values are recognized and reflected, within a strong, united Canadian federation and within the international community.**

Intergovernmental Affairs Division

Trade and International Relations

- On the basis of broad input from the agriculture sector, provincial objectives for the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations in agriculture were identified and effectively communicated by the Department of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food to the federal government. Saskatchewan's objectives, with few exceptions, were successfully incorporated in Canada's negotiating position in this sector.
- Stakeholder consultations on the WTO services negotiations were conducted by the department to identify provincial objectives in this area.
- Saskatchewan's concerns with Chapter 11 (investment) of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) were effectively developed and communicated to the federal government as part of the five-year operational review. The federal position on renegotiating with the U.S. and Mexico in this area reflects Saskatchewan's objectives.
- Saskatchewan's objectives for the Canada-European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA) negotiations were successfully incorporated into Canada's negotiating positions.
- Saskatchewan's objectives for extending the procurement obligations of the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) to the so-called MASH (municipalities, academic institutions, schools and hospitals) sector were successfully negotiated, and the agreement implemented, by the July 1, 1999 deadline.
- Saskatchewan's interests were successfully protected and/or advanced in the outcomes of most trade disputes, including beef, live cattle, live swine, dairy exports, agricultural chemicals in crops, and uranium. In the case of pharmaceuticals, producer interests in more secure patent protection were upheld in both cases before the WTO. This outcome will have significant expenditure and investment effects on Saskatchewan.
- Saskatchewan successfully advanced its objective of broadening and deepening its formal and informal relationships with border and regional groups of U.S. states in order to counter the rise of U.S. protectionism. During this period, Saskatchewan revived its formal, multi-sectoral relationships with both North Dakota and Montana , and formalized new relations with the U.S. Council of State Governments and, in conjunction with the other members of the Western Premiers Conference, with the Western Governors Association.
- The Government of Saskatchewan made significant contributions to international development assistance in two ways: by continuing to participate in 'governance'

projects in such countries as China, Russia, South Africa and Ukraine, and by continued participation in the Matching Grants-in-Aid Program with local non-governmental organizations and the federal government.

Highlights:

- Saskatchewan's objectives for the WTO agriculture negotiations were, with few exceptions, incorporated into Canada's negotiating position in September 1999.
- As the lead jurisdiction in the Western Premiers Conference, Saskatchewan successfully secured WPC approval to establish a new formalized relationship with the Western Governors Association (WGA), and subsequently facilitated a WGA resolution endorsing the WPC proposal.
- Saskatchewan had a lead role in successfully convincing the federal government to continue the Canada-South Africa Provincial Twinning Project, and the provincial government received a commemorative award from the Saskatchewan Council for International Co-operation to mark the 25th anniversary of the Matching Grants-in-Aid Program.

Intergovernmental Relations

Key activities included:

- staffing all intergovernmental meetings involving the Minister and the Premier.
- advising the Premier, Minister and Cabinet on strategic and tactical issues and considerations related to advancing Saskatchewan's interests and objectives intergovernmentally.
- working interdepartmentally to assist and support line departments' efforts at advancing their objectives and interests through sectoral forums.
- working intra-departmentally to assist and support the Aboriginal Affairs Division in advancing the Government's interests and objectives with respect to negotiations related to Aboriginal self-government.

Highlights:

- Governments, under the co-chairmanship of Saskatchewan, launched a national dialogue on developing a shared vision around the creation of a National Children's Agenda.
- Saskatchewan and Canada successfully concluded a new French Language Services Agreement.
- Saskatchewan effectively advanced child poverty at the national level, with the federal government doubling its commitment to the National Child Benefit.
- Saskatchewan successfully concluded 15 federal-provincial agreements related to agriculture, including the Agriculture Income Disaster Assistance Program and a Canada-Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Agreement.

We Canadians have decided to share a common future, and to build that future together on the foundations of core Canadian values.

- Premier Roy Romanow
In an address to the Queen's University International Institute on Social Policy

Telecommunications and Broadcasting

Work for the telecommunications and broadcasting section focused on the issue of ensuring affordable, high quality

telecommunications services for residents in Saskatchewan's rural and northern areas.

In the fall of 1999, Saskatchewan and other provinces recommended to the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) that it create a national Universal Service Fund as a way to ensure sustained, affordable access to telecommunication services for all residents. In October 1999, the CRTC rejected the recommendation.

Since the CRTC decision was announced, the department has concentrated its telecommunication efforts on working with interested and affected groups and governments to elaborate the Province's position to the federal government. The work was instrumental in bringing the issue to the forefront of the national stage.

Saskatchewan participated in a number of national hearings and brought substantial public and media focus to the issue. Working with the Province of Manitoba, Saskatchewan sent a joint petition to the federal Cabinet in January 2000 requesting it to change the October 1999 CRTC decision to ensure all residents have an equal opportunity to contribute to Saskatchewan's, and Canada's, social and economic development.

Groups supporting the Province's position included the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, the National Farmers Union, the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations, the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association, the Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association, the Saskatchewan Library Association, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool.

Provincial Secretary Division

Protocol Office

The Protocol Office plans, organizes and carries out official visits to Saskatchewan of members of the diplomatic and consular corps accredited to Canada, and of foreign heads of state or government and delegations led by persons of ministerial rank or higher. The Office works closely in this area with the department's International Relations staff, the Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership (STEP), other government departments and the Legislative Assembly.

Highlights:

- During fiscal 1999-2000, the Protocol Office handled 23 official visits, including a head of state visit of the President of Iceland and a visit from the Vice-Governor of Jilin Province, China.
- Other visits included the ambassadors or high commissioners of France, Korea, Chile, Belgium, South Africa, Jamaica, and the Eastern Caribbean.
- Other diplomats came from China, Japan, Germany, France, Israel, and Hungary.
- Saskatchewan received a visit from the Canadian Ambassador to China.
- Saskatchewan hosted delegations from China, South Africa, Chile, Russia and Ukraine in the context of our special relationships with these countries.
- The Office assisted staff of the International Relations branch with the preparation of substantive briefing material for visits.

Goal IV: Saskatchewan's identity, heritage and the achievements of our people are honoured, promoted and celebrated.

Provincial Secretary Division

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor is the representative of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in the Province of Saskatchewan. The Lieutenant Governor formally appoints the Premier and swears in Cabinet Ministers, reads the Speech from the Throne at the opening of a session of the Legislature, gives royal assent to bills for them to become law, and signs orders-in-council and proclamations.

Royal Assent was given to 43 Bills during the Fourth Session of the 23rd Legislature and one Bill during the First Session of the 24th Legislature in the Province of Saskatchewan. The Lieutenant Governor fulfilled all constitutional duties and, when unavailable, the office ensured that the Administrator was available.

The present and former Lieutenant Governors of Saskatchewan have felt it important that the Vice-Regal Office be accessible to the people of the Province. The goal of the office is to continue this accessibility.

In the period between April 1, 1999 and March 31, 2000, the Lieutenant Governor attended 209 official functions and delivered 134 speeches to communities and organizations around the province. The office reviewed its itinerary scheduling process with a view to streamlining procedures and reducing the number of contacts with function organizers. The result was a revised process with a new Event Details form and more clearly defined procedures of the responsibility of the itinerary co-ordinator, researcher and Honorary Aide-de-Camp.

In addition to attending numerous community functions, the Lieutenant Governor's goal of bringing the Crown closer to the people of the province is enhanced by sending special letters of greeting to Saskatchewan residents celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries and birthdays upon request. In the past year, the office received approximately 2,700 requests for greetings, which were forwarded to other provincial and federal officials under a congratulatory greeting program, and the office sent approximately 2,000 greetings.

In an effort to enhance the congratulatory greeting program for Saskatchewan residents, a new on-line form was developed and implemented on the departmental website. The form, available at www.gov.sk.ca/iaa/lgo allows the public to request greetings on-line.

Protocol Office

The Office is responsible for official functions, ceremonial occasions, honours and awards, symbols policy, and hospitality for the government as a whole.

Highlights:

- Managed the annual provincial honours and awards program.
  - Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the province's highest honour, established in 1985

- Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal introduced in 1995.

The 15th investiture of the Order took place in Saskatoon in October 1999 and the fourth presentation of the Medal in the Legislature in April 1999. In addition, the Government and Legislature hold an annual recognition event in the spring at Government House and in the Assembly for recent recipients of national and provincial honours.

- Arranged the annual Service of Remembrance at the Legislative Building in November and the Christmas Lights Across Canada event in December.
- Organized special recognition events:
  - 15 Wing Moose Jaw on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force;
  - Saskatchewan recipients of the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards.
- Arranged farewell events in January for Their Honours the Honourable J.E.N. Wiebe, Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Ann Wiebe.
- Organized the installation ceremony in February of the Honourable Dr. Lynda M. Haverstock in February as 19th Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan.
- Continued operation of the government gift policy and gift bank on behalf of SPMC.
- Assumed full responsibility from SPMC for the art collection and galleries in the Legislative Building. The latter include portraits of previous Lieutenant Governors and Premiers, the Assiniboine Gallery of drawings of First Nations leaders, the Northwest Mounted Police Gallery, the portraits of former Speakers, and the Athabasca Gallery devoted to the members of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit.

Government House Heritage Property

Government House Heritage Property, one of the province's most historic buildings, is a key element of the Provincial Secretary's role in promoting the identity and heritage of Saskatchewan. Residence of the Lieutenant Governors of the Northwest Territories from 1891 to 1905 and those of the Province of Saskatchewan from 1905 to 1945, Government House has been a museum and government hospitality facility since 1981 and has accommodated the offices of the Lieutenant Governor since 1984. Provincial Secretary Division assumed responsibility for management of the House in 1998.

Highlights:

- Commissioned a study on a future vision for Government House.
- Began revamping the Government House Heritage Property Use of Facility Policy.
- Initiated improvements to programming, including doubling the museum's opening hours from three hours daily to six from the Victoria Day weekend to Labour Day.
- Held 130 events at Government House in 1999-2000, including 59 for non-profit groups and 30 for the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. It is estimated that nearly 31,000 people visited Government House, including 12,000 for non-profit groups and 10,000 on public tours.
- Opened an addition incorporating barrier-free access and an elevator in December 1999. This feature makes the second floor and the basement accessible to all individuals for the first time. SPMC and Saunders Evans Architects won a heritage award for the addition, the first construction project at Government House in 20 years.

- Accommodated filming in Government House as part of a major cinema production.
- Hosted the President of Iceland at an official function in July 1999.
- Hosted a temporary display on "Women in Leadership in Saskatchewan" in November 1999. Madam Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dubé of the Supreme Court of Canada opened the display.

Anniversaries Secretariat

The Citizens' Advisory Council on Anniversaries determined its priorities would be, in descending order:

- the Provincial Centennial;
- assisting the 95 Saskatchewan communities that will celebrate their own Centennials between now and 2006; and
- the Millennium celebration.

To facilitate its objectives, the Council prepared a "Planning Saskatchewan's Centennial" Discussion Paper. The paper was used to raise public awareness and enthusiasm for the Centennial and to begin generating ideas on how to celebrate our centennial.

Following the broad directions of the Citizens' Advisory Council, the Anniversaries Secretariat staged a range of successful Millennium programs and also began laying the groundwork for the Centennial celebration in 2005.

Our Centennial is an ideal time to celebrate pride in our past and confidence in our future.

The Secretariat's work on the Centennial celebration included establishing a framework that would serve as the basis for public consultations as well as distributing 33,000 copies of the discussion paper to a wide range of Saskatchewan organizations. All ideas will be considered in developing a plan for celebrating our centennial.

Some of the major organizations consulted on Centennial plans included the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association; SaskCulture Inc.; Saskatchewan Parks & Recreation Association; and the Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies and Exhibitions.

The Anniversaries Secretariat also made presentations to numerous service clubs.

Community meetings were scheduled for early in the fiscal 2000-2001 fiscal year.

Millennium Celebration programming included:

"Celebrating Saskatchewan" Website

- www.celebratingsask.com lists more than 600 events occurring in Saskatchewan during the year 2000, and more than 2,000 events occurring through the end of 2005.

"Celebrating Saskatchewan" Recognition Program

- This program recognized community-based Millennium projects and events that commemorated our past, celebrated our present and left legacies for our future. Major events of provincial, interprovincial, national and international scope were also recognized.
- The Anniversaries Secretariat recognized more than 600 initiatives and distributed more than 100,000 placemats, 25,000 conference folders and 100,000 balloons.

Ringing in the Millennium

- This initiative encouraged Saskatchewan residents to participate in local bell ringing events in their own communities at 12 noon, January 1, 2000.

- More than 200 communities organized events, and well over 1,000 bells rang New Year's Day.

Three Century Club

- The Province of Saskatchewan recognized seniors who lived, as of January 2000, during the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. The Lieutenant Governor's Office assisted in honouring the 177 seniors recognized through this initiative.

First Millennium Babies

- All babies born between 12 midnight December 31, 1999 and 12 midnight, January 1, 2000 were recognized as Saskatchewan's "First Millennium Babies." There were 31 babies honoured through this initiative.

Trans Canada Trail

- The Province supports the work of local Trans Canada Trail organizers and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association in their quest to complete Saskatchewan's portion of the Trans Canada Trail, connecting it to the rest of Canada. Upon its completion, Saskatchewan will have more than 1,400 km. of trail.

Atlas of Saskatchewan

- The Province of Saskatchewan provided more than 1,100 copies of the recently published Atlas of Saskatchewan, one to every school and every public library system in Saskatchewan.

Goal V:

A high quality of working life and an adequately resourced, healthy, learning organization are the foundations on which excellent service is provided by our representative professional workforce.

Recognizing that our staff is IAA's most valuable resource, the department held its first-ever staff strategic planning session in September 1999. At that session, staff participated in developing the department's guiding principles, vision, goals and objectives. The department has found this a valuable resource to begin development of the strategic plan.

To ensure the department is meeting the needs of IAA staff and fulfilling its identified guiding principles, the department has committed to:

- developing a staff survey to be used as a benchmark measure against which to evaluate the department's progress in achieving its guiding principles; the survey would offer a vehicle through which each employee could offer opinions and suggestions on the work environment within the department;
- forming a broad-based representative Working Group to address identified issues and initiatives within the department;
- communicating regularly on the strategic plan and the department's success in achieving its identified goals and objectives; and
- offering regular opportunities for staff input into the process.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 1999-2000 Revenue and Expenditure Statement				
Program **Sub-Program**	**Estimates ($000s)**	**Actuals ($000s)**	**Variance ($000s)**	**Notes**
Revenue				
Federal Contributions and Other Miscellaneous Revenue	**167**	**184**	**17**	
Expenses				
Administration	**1,076**	**1,160**	**84**	**1**
Accommodation and Central Services	**1,346**	**1,309**	**(37)**	**2**
Provincial Secretary	**1,838**	**1,959**	**121**	
Lieutenant Governor's Office	293	309	16	
Office of French-language Co-ordination	287	232	(55)	3
Protocol	391	449	58	4
Government House	200	326	126	5
Anniversaries Secretariat	667	643	(24)	6
Intergovernmental Affairs	**2,358**	**1,955**	**(403)**	
Federal-Provincial Relations	509	586	77	7
International Relations	843	687	(156)	8
Constitutional Relations	346	235	(111)	9
Trade Policy	446	393	(53)	9
Telecommunications & Broadcasting Policy	214	54	(160)	10
Aboriginal Affairs	**23,241**	**22,770**	**(471)**	
Policy & Co-ordination	1,944	1,874	(70)	11
Support for Aboriginal Organizations and Issues	890	880	(10)	
Treaty Land Entitlements	20,407	20,016	(391)	12
Department Expenditure Totals	**29,859**	**29,153**	**(706)**	
FTE Staff Complement	**79.9**	**75.6**	**4.3**	

Notes

1 Additional contractual, travel and systems/network infrastructure expenses.

2 Less renovation, accommodation and postage costs than originally anticipated.

3 Less translation than originally anticipated and fewer initiatives related to the Canada-Saskatchewan General Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages.

4 Increased visits and special events resulted in additional banquet and associated expenditures.

5 Increase in guide hours/salaries, overtime, and contractual services for Government House redevelopment plan.

6 Communication expenses and grants less than originally anticipated.

7 Increased meeting expenses associated with being Chair of the Social Policy Reform initiative and the Canadian Intergovernmental Conference Secretariat payment larger than expected.

8 Bid on the Canada-Ukraine Legislative Project unsuccessful; less activity than anticipated with Jilin as new plan of action contemplated.

9 Vacant staff positions.

10 Mid-year program transfer to Economic and Co-operative Development.

11 Vacant staff positions.

12 Treaty Land Entitlement settlement payment deferred to next fiscal year.

Legislation

The Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs and the Provincial Secretary has responsibility for the following Acts and Regulations:

- *The Department of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Regulations, 1998*
- *The Provincial Secretary's Act and Regulations*
- *The Indian and Native Affairs Act*
- *The Saskatchewan Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (Treaty Land Entitlement) Act (No. 2)*
- *The Treaty Land Entitlement Implementation Act*
- *The Community Cablecaster Act (not proclaimed)*
- *The Telephone Department Act*
- *The Rural Telephone Act*